

RE 11 E P 2004/005497

EP0415497

19.05.2004



Europäisches  
Patentamt

European  
Patent Office

Office européen  
des brevets

REC'D 07 JUL 2004

WIPO POT

Bescheinigung

Certificate

Attestation

Die angehefteten Unterlagen stimmen mit der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung der auf dem nächsten Blatt bezeichneten europäischen Patentanmeldung überein.

The attached documents are exact copies of the European patent application described on the following page, as originally filed.

Les documents fixés à cette attestation sont conformes à la version initialement déposée de la demande de brevet européen spécifiée à la page suivante.

Patentanmeldung Nr. Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°

03076699.2

PRIORITY  
DOCUMENT  
SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN  
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;  
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets  
p.o.

R C van Dijk

**THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)**



Europäisches  
Patentamt

European  
Patent Office

Office européen  
des brevets

PCT/EP 2004/005497  
19.05.2004

Anmeldung Nr:  
Application no.: 03076699.2  
Demande no:

Anmeldestag:  
Date of filing: 02.06.03  
Date de dépôt:

Anmelder/Applicant(s)/Demandeur(s):

UNILEVER N.V.  
Weena 455  
3013 AL Rotterdam  
PAYS-BAS

Bezeichnung der Erfindung/Title of the invention/Titre de l'invention:  
(Falls die Bezeichnung der Erfindung nicht angegeben ist, siehe Beschreibung.  
If no title is shown please refer to the description.  
Si aucun titre n'est indiqué se referer à la description.)

Kettle assembly

In Anspruch genommene Priorität(en) / Priority(ies) claimed /Priorité(s)  
revendiquée(s)  
Staat/Tag/Aktenzeichen/State/Date/File no./Pays/Date/Numéro de dépôt:

Internationale Patentklassifikation/International Patent Classification/  
Classification internationale des brevets:

A47J27/00

Am Anmeldestag benannte Vertragstaaten/Contracting states designated at date of  
filling/Etats contractants désignées lors du dépôt:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LU MC NL  
PT RO SE SI SK TR LI

**THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)**

02.06.2003

(67)

## KETTLE ASSEMBLY

5

TECHNICAL FIELD

10 The present invention relates to a kettle assembly. More specifically, it relates to a kettle assembly for soup having an outer container, and inner container and a lid.

15 BACKGROUND ART

Soup is a food product that is greatly appreciated as a light snack or as a starter in a more extensive dinner. It is important that the soup has to be served warm. At home, soup is usually prepared in a kettle in the kitchen. When the soup has been heated to the right temperature, it is poured into bowls using a ladle and served directly, such that it may be consumed while still warm. However, soup is also served in snack bars, waiting rooms, office restaurants, petrol stations, etc. In those circumstances, the soup is usually kept warm using an insulating kettle. For example, JP2002238718 (Fukui Craft KK) discloses such a heat-insulating container for soup, wherein an inner wall and an outer wall of the container are joined by a foaming resin. The soup is generally heated on an electric plate. A special situation exists in office restaurants with self-service, where the soup has to be kept warm unattended for longer periods. This is usually achieved by means of an electronic temperature control unit. For instance, GB-A-2 380 063 discloses an electric kettle and a means for sensing the

water temperature and switching-off the kettle at a pre-selected temperature.

If, however, the manager of the office restaurant wishes to  
5 offer the choice between more than one type of soup to his  
clients, this is often not possible because the available space  
is too restricted. It is therefore an object of the present  
invention to provide a kettle assembly that enables the  
simultaneous delivery of more than one type of soup at a  
10 constant, elevated temperature and in a restricted space.

Surprisingly, it was found that this object can be achieved by  
the kettle assembly for soup according to the present  
invention, comprising a kettle part and a lid, which is  
15 characterised in that the kettle part comprises a cylindrical  
outer container and a cylindrical inner container fitting  
inside said outer container, said inner container having  
therein a vertical separating plate, such that at least two  
compartments are formed and that the lid comprises a hinge,  
20 such that each of the compartments of the inner container can  
be opened separately.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 According to a first aspect of the present invention there is  
provided a kettle assembly for soup comprising a kettle part  
and a lid, characterised in that the kettle part comprises a  
cylindrical outer container and a cylindrical inner container  
fitting inside said outer container, said inner container  
30 having therein a vertical separating plate, such that at least  
two compartments are formed and that the lid comprises a hinge,  
such that each of the compartments of the inner container can  
be opened separately.

In a second aspect, there is provided process for the simultaneous dispensing of more than one type of soup, using the kettle assembly of the invention.

5

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The kettle assembly of the present invention comprises a kettle part and a lid part. The kettle part comprises a cylindrical outer container and a cylindrical inner container fitting inside said outer container. The outer container preferably comprises two handles to facilitate lifting and moving of the kettle assembly. Inside the outer container, there is an inner container that can be easily removed from the outer container. Between the inner container and the outer container there is a gap, which serves as an insulating layer to keep the temperature of the soup constant. Preferably, the gap is filled with water, which is kept on a predetermined temperature by means of an electrical heating means in the bottom of the outer container. The electric heating means usefully comprise some form of control mechanism to keep the temperature at a pre-set value. It therefore employs a sensor means for determining the temperature of the water, usually indirectly, that is without direct contact between the sensor and the water. Such means may comprise a bi-metallic element the operative part of which is in communication with the interior of the outer container, usually through a vent in the container wall.

According to a second aspect of this invention there is provided a process for the simultaneous dispensing of more than one type of soup. It will be clear, given the differences in taste of the clients, that the chance of selling a portion of soup will readily increase if more than one type of soup can be

offered to the clients. Furthermore, all clients in general will benefit from a wider choice of soups.

This invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the drawings showing embodiments according to the various aspects of this so invention. In the drawings: Fig. 1 shows in front view a kettle assembly according to the invention, Fig. 2 shows the outer container of the kettle assembly of Fig. 1 in more detail, Fig. 3 shows the inner container of the kettle assembly of Fig. 1 in more detail.

In all the drawings like reference numerals designate like functional parts. Referring to Figs. 1 to 3, the kettle assembly for soup comprises a cylindrical outer container (1) and a cylindrical inner container (2) which fits inside said outer container. The inner container has fitted therein a vertical separating plate (3), such that at least two compartments are formed. Furthermore, the lid (4) comprises a hinge (5), such that each of the compartments of the inner container (2) can be opened separately.

Preferably, the outer container possesses two handles (6) to facilitate lifting and moving of the kettle assembly for filling and/or cleaning.

Preferably, the outer container possesses electrical heating means (7) in the bottom of said outer container. It is preferred that the kettle assembly system also comprise temperature control means to keep the temperature at a pre-set value. The electric element (7) is connected to an electric power supply through two pairs of switch contacts (a double pole switch) which may be in the "off" position and the "on" position.

CLAIMS

(67)

1. A kettle assembly for soup comprising a kettle part and a lid, characterised in that the kettle part comprises a cylindrical outer container and a cylindrical inner container fitting inside said outer container, said inner container having therein a vertical separating plate, such that at least two compartments are formed and that the lid comprises a hinge, such that each of the compartments of the inner container can be opened separately.  
10
2. A kettle assembly according to claim 1, wherein the inner container comprises two compartments.
- 15 3. A kettle assembly according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the outer container comprises two handles.
4. A kettle assembly according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising electrical heating means in the bottom of  
20 the outer container.
5. A kettle assembly according to claim 4, wherein the electrical heating means also comprise temperature control means.  
25
6. A kettle assembly according to claim 4, wherein the temperature control means comprise a bi-metallic mechanism
7. Process for the simultaneous dispensing of more than one  
30 type of soup by using the kettle assembly for soup according to any one of the preceding claims.

**THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)**

ABSTRACT

A kettle assembly for soup comprising a kettle part and a lid, characterised in that the kettle part comprises a cylindrical outer container and a cylindrical inner container fitting inside said outer container, said inner container having therein a vertical separating plate, such that at least two compartments are formed and that the lid comprises a hinge, such that each of the compartments of the inner container can be opened separately.

10

\*\*\*

EPO - DG 1

02.06.2003

(67)

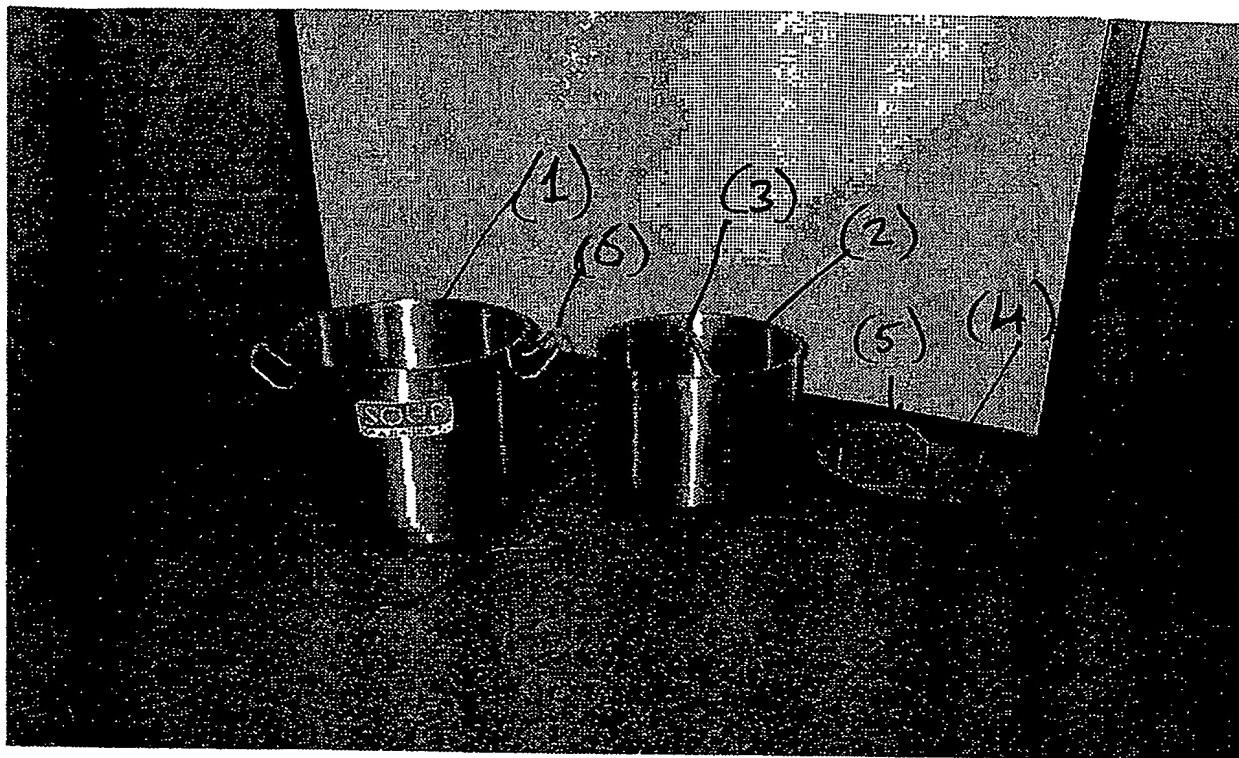
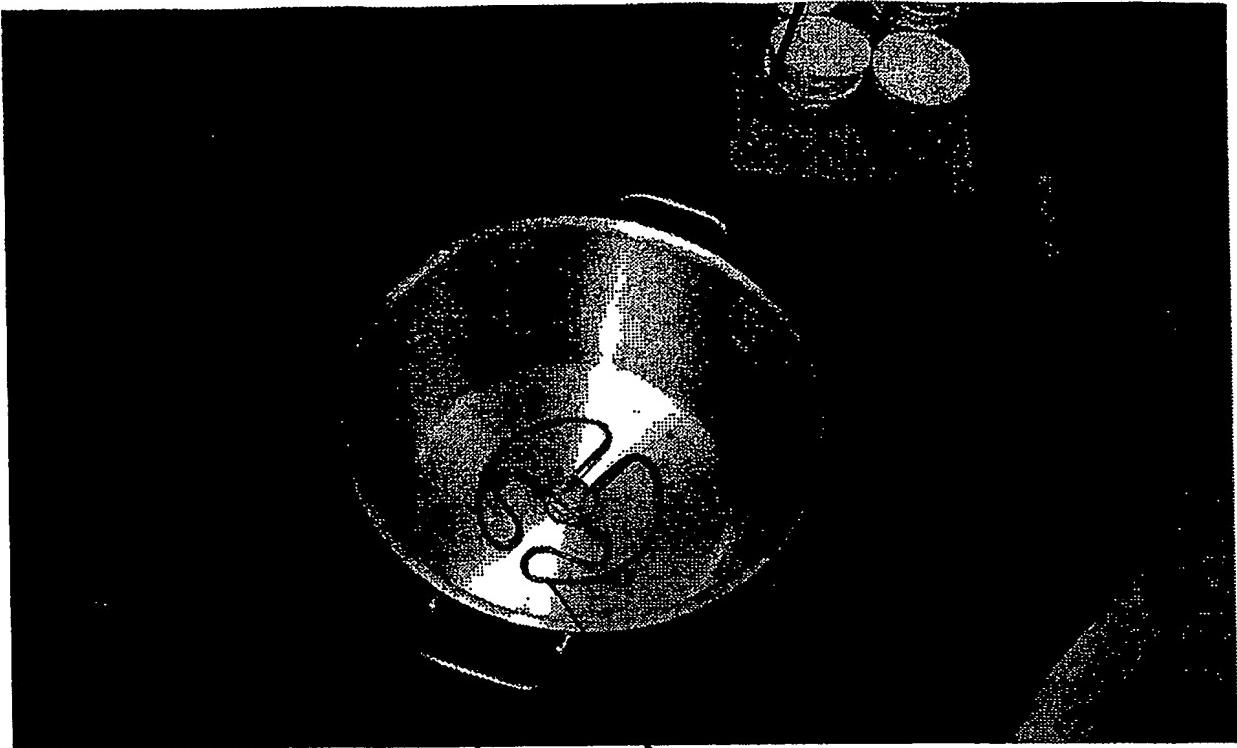


Figure 1

EPO - DG 1

02.06.2003



(6) (7)

Figure 2

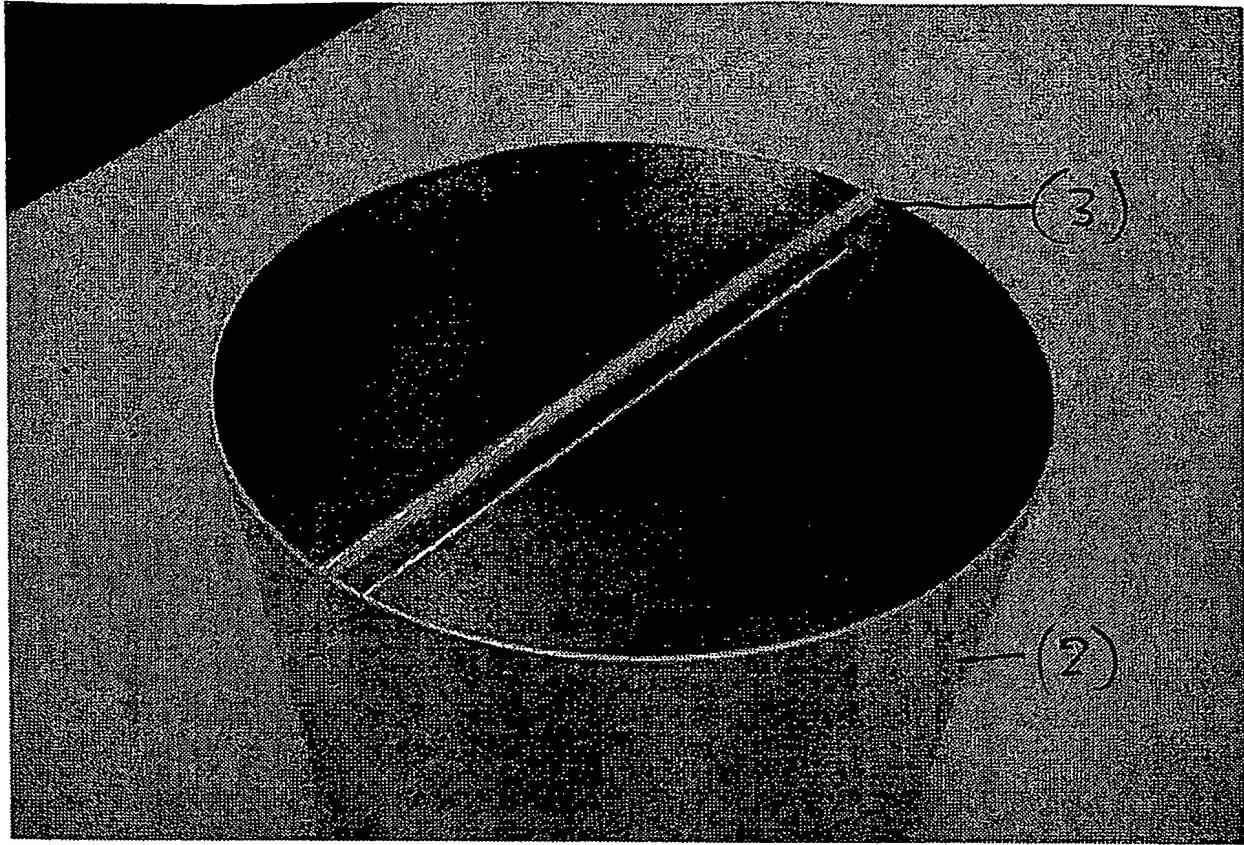


Figure 3

POT/EP 004/005497



**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning  
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.**